

we are not going to ask you to base representation on the level of taxes paid. We're asking to base representation on the level of people represented. We think each individual ought to have equal representation on NRD boards. Now the reason I cite the factors in terms of the population and the property tax valuation is to show you that there is an interest on the part of these urban residents in what happens with their NRD, not only because of the policies, but because of the taxes paid. These individuals are paying to support these NRDs. They are paying their fair share of NRD support, maybe a little more than their fair share now because of their lack of representation, but they are paying taxes but they are not having adequate representation. This is taxation without representation. It is something that our nation fought to change back two hundred some years ago and something we need to change again. Now our history in this country has found many changes in our election system. These changes have occurred with great opposition from people that have benefited from the status quo, but changes have occurred nevertheless. When we first started in this nation we had individuals vote that had property and nobody else. This was landholders that were allowed to vote but not anybody else because we felt that those people had a vested interest and were allowed the chance then and the right and the privilege to vote. At some point later in our history we decided, well, that's not right. We ought to allow all males to vote, and when I say landholder, of course I meant all male landholders, but later we said, well, all males ought to have the right to vote and we allowed that opportunity. Of course we didn't allow all blacks to vote and we had different restrictions on that, but we said all white males can vote whether they had property or not and at some point later on we decided well males ought to be joined by females. There is no reason they should not be allowed to vote and so in 1919 I believe we passed the amendment which allowed females to vote. It was then a little later on in 1950s and 1960s that we decided that all citizens in this country, whether they be black or white ought to have free access to the right to vote and we did allow, after the Civil War, blacks to vote but we had so many restrictions, the poll tax and the exams that had to be taken and essentially we stopped those people from voting.

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.